

U.S. Serial No. 10/649,479
Filed: August 26, 2003
Response to Final Office Action
Page 4 of 18

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A system for processing waste comprising:
 - a. a waste sludge comprising solid waste and liquid;
 - b. at least one geotextile container positioned above-ground for filtering at least some of the liquid from the waste sludge;
 - c. at least one connector for transporting the waste sludge into the at least one geotextile container; and
 - d. a liquid reservoir for collecting the liquid filtered from the at least one geotextile container;

~~wherein the at least one geotextile container is self-supporting.~~
2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the system further comprises a waste reservoir for collecting the waste sludge and wherein the at least one connector transports the waste sludge from the waste reservoir and into the at least one geotextile container.
3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one connector comprises a pipe.
4. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising at least one regulator for controlling flow of the waste sludge into the at least one geotextile container.

U.S. Serial No. 10/649,479
Filed: August 26, 2003
Response to Final Office Action
Page 5 of 18

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4, wherein the at least one regulator comprises a valve.
6. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one geotextile container comprises an at least partially liquid permeable material.
7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the material comprises fabric.
8. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the at least one geotextile container comprises an inner layer and an outer layer of material.
9. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a barrier defining an area in which the at least one geotextile container may be positioned.
10. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a liner positioned under the at least one geotextile container.
11. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a three-dimensional drainage net positioned under the at least one geotextile container.
12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the liquid reservoir is positioned substantially adjacent to the at least one geotextile container.

U.S. Serial No. 10/649,479
Filed: August 26, 2003
Response to Final Office Action
Page 6 of 18

13. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one geotextile container comprises a primary geotextile container and a secondary geotextile container and the at least one connector comprises a primary connector and a secondary connector, wherein the primary connector transports waste sludge into the primary geotextile container and wherein the secondary connector transports liquid filtered by the primary geotextile container into the secondary geotextile container.

14. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one geotextile container comprises at least two geotextile containers, wherein the system is adapted to simultaneously feed the waste sludge into the at least two geotextile containers.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

at least one chemical conditioner for imparting a charge to a portion of the solid waste in the waste sludge;

at least one polymer carrying an opposite charge to that imparted by the at least one chemical conditioner to aid in coagulation of the solid waste in the waste sludge.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of processing waste comprising:

U.S. Serial No. 10/649,479
Filed: August 26, 2003
Response to Final Office Action
Page 7 of 18

a. feeding waste sludge comprising solid waste and liquid into at least one geotextile container positioned above-ground;

b. removing at least some of the liquid from the waste sludge using the at least one geotextile container; and

c. collecting the liquid removed from the waste sludge;
~~wherein the at least one geotextile container is self-supporting.~~

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the waste sludge is fed into the at least one geotextile container through a connector.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein removing at least some of the liquid comprises allowing the liquid to permeate through the geotextile container.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the at least one geotextile container comprises a primary and a secondary geotextile container and the waste sludge is fed into the primary geotextile container, wherein the method further comprises feeding the collected liquid into the secondary geotextile container.

21. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the at least one geotextile container comprises at least two geotextile containers and the waste sludge is fed simultaneously into the at least two geotextile containers.

U.S. Serial No. 10/649,479
Filed: August 26, 2003
Response to Final Office Action
Page 8 of 18

22. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising controlling flow of the waste sludge into the at least one geotextile container.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising:

adding at least one chemical conditioner for imparting a charge to a portion of the solid waste in the waste sludge to the waste sludge before feeding the waste sludge into the at least one geotextile container;

adding at least one polymer carrying an opposite charge to that imparted by the at least one chemical conditioner to aid in coagulation of the solid waste in the waste sludge to the waste sludge before feeding the waste sludge into the at least one geotextile container.

25. (Currently Amended) A system of processing waste comprising:

- a. a waste sludge comprising solid waste and liquid;
- b. a waste reservoir for collecting the waste sludge;
- c. at least one geotextile container positioned above-ground for filtering at least some of the liquid from the waste sludge, wherein the at least one geotextile container comprises an at least partially liquid permeable material;
- d. at least one pipe for transporting the waste sludge from the waste reservoir and into the at least one geotextile container; and

U.S. Serial No. 10/649,479
Filed: August 26, 2003
Response to Final Office Action
Page 9 of 18

e. a liquid reservoir located substantially adjacent to the at least one geotextile container for collecting the liquid filtered from the at least one geotextile container;
~~wherein the at least one geotextile container is self-supporting.~~

26. (New) A system for processing waste comprising:

a. a waste sludge comprising solid waste and liquid, wherein the waste sludge further comprises at least one chemical conditioner for imparting a charge to a portion of the solid waste in the waste sludge and at least one polymer carrying an opposite charge to that imparted by the at least one chemical conditioner to aid in coagulation of the solid waste in the waste sludge;

b. at least one geotextile container for filtering at least some of the liquid from the waste sludge;

c. at least one connector for transporting the waste sludge into the at least one geotextile container;

d. a liquid reservoir for collecting the liquid filtered from the at least one geotextile container; and

e. a three-dimensional drainage net positioned under the at least one geotextile container.